

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY PM/ISO:FJFLEMINGS:ILB

7/31/73 EXT. 21003

APPROVED BY PM/ISO:JRDEWENTER

NEA/GRK - MR. CHURCHILL

H - MCKENZIE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

INFO OSD/ISA

CNO

CINCEUR

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FLEET SUPPORT OFFICE, ATHENS

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, GR

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS ON HOMEPORING

1. ON MORNING 30 JULY MR. CHURCHILL APPEARED TO TESTIFY
BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPE OF THE HOUSE FOREIGN
AFFAIRS COMMITTEE. MR. DAVIES HAD BEEN SCHEDULED TO
TESTIFY BUT WAS UNABLE TO DO SO. THE HEARING WAS LIGHTLY
ATTENDED WITH ONLY CHAIRMAN ROSENTHAL, MR. BUCHANAN, AND
MR. HAMILTON PRESENT. MR. ROSENTHAL BEGAN BY STATING
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THAT HE WISHED TO EXPLORE U.S. POLICY TOWARD GREECE IN

GENERAL, AND IN PARTICULAR RECENT DOMESTIC POLITICAL EVENTS IN GREECE AND THE U.S. NAVY'S HOMEPORTING ACTIVITIES IN ATHENS. MR. CHURCHILL THEN READ INTO THE RECORD A PREPARED STATEMENT (POUCHED SEPARATELY). THE FOLLOWING ARE THE MOST PERTINENT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS WHICH WERE POSED AFTER THE READING OF THE STATEMENT.

2. MR. ROSENTHAL ASKED WHAT HAD HAPPENED IN GREECE WITHIN THE LAST 48 HOURS BEYOND WHAT WAS BEING CARRIED IN THE NEWSPAPERS. MR. CHURCHILL STATED THAT THERE WAS LITTLE HE COULD ADD TO THE NEWS REPORTS. AT LAST READING, SOME 4.9 MILLION VALID BALLOTS HAD BEEN CAST AND OF

THIS NUMBER, 3.8 MILLION OR APPROXIMATELY 78 AND ONE-HALF PERCENT OF THE VOTERS HAD VOTED YES. MR. ROSENTHAL ASKED IF IT WERE NOT TRUE THAT FOREIGN DIPLOMATS IN GREECE HAD INDICATED EMBARRASSMENT OVER THE TYPE OF ELECTION BEING HELD. MR. CHURCHILL RESPONDED THAT IT WOULD NOT BE PROPER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE TO COMMENT OR TO PUBLICLY JUDGE THE MANNER IN WHICH A FOREIGN GOVERNMENT CONDUCTED ITS ELECTIONS. MR. ROSENTHAL THEN STATED THAT IF WE DO NOT MAKE SUCH JUDGMENTS HE WAS UNABLE TO SEE HOW WE COULD DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO INITIATE HOMEPORTING IN GREECE OR MAKE DECISIONS REGARDING OTHER RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE GOVERNMENT.

3. MR. ROSENTHAL STATED THAT THE COMMITTEE HAD INVITED AMBASSADOR TASCA TO RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES TO TESTIFY BEFORE THE COMMITTEE. THE COMMITTEE UNDERSTOOD WHY IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR MR. TASCA TO BE AT HIS POST DURING THE WEEKS PRECEDING THE ELECTION. HOWEVER, NOW THAT THE PLEBISCITE WAS OVER THE COMMITTEE WOULD AGAIN ASK THAT MR. TASCA RETURN TO TESTIFY. MR. ROSENTHAL ASKED ABOUT THE MECHANICS OF THE PLEBISCITE. MR. CHURCHILL INDICATED THAT THERE WERE TWO BALLOTS, A YES BALLOT AND A NO BALLOT. THE VOTER TOOK BOTH INTO THE VOTING BOOTH, DEPOSITED THE ONE HE DESIRED AND DISPOSED OF THE OTHER AFTER LEAVING THE BOOTH. MR. ROSENTHAL THEN POINTED OUT THAT IN THIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SITUATION IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO DETERMINE EXACTLY HOW EVERY VOTER CAST HIS BALLOT. HE AGAIN PRESSED FOR A STATEMENT ON THE CONDUCT OF THE PLEBISCITE, TO WHICH MR. CHURCHILL RESPONDED THAT THE DEPARTMENT DID RECEIVE REPORTS BUT IT WOULD NOT BE PROPER FOR THE DEPARTMENT TO COMMENT PUBLICLY ON THE CONDUCT OF THE PLEBISCITE OR OTHER INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY.

4. MR. ROSENTHAL QUOTED PREVIOUS TESTIMONY BY DEPARTMENT OF STATE WITNESSES INDICATING THAT THERE APPEARED TO BE A DEFINITE TURN TOWARD CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT. HE SAID THAT SINCE THE DEPARTMENT HAD BEEN WILLING TO DISCUSS GREEK INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE PAST HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THE DEPARTMENT'S WITNESS WAS NOW HESITANT TO PROVIDE SUCH VIEWS.

5. MR. ROSENTHAL THEN ASKED WHETHER THE STATE DEPARTMENT WAS AWARE THAT THE NAVY HAD NOT INFORMED THE GREEK GOVERNMENT AT THE TIME THEY ORIGINALLY SURVEYED ATHENS AS A POSSIBLE LOCATION FOR HOMEPORTING THE CARRIER TASK GROUP. MR. CHURCHILL INDICATED THAT THE DEPARTMENT WAS NOT ONLY AWARE, BUT HAD INSISTED THAT THE SURVEYS SHOULD BE MADE ON A U.S. ONLY BASIS, AND THAT OUR HOMEPORTING PLANS

SHOULD NOT BE DISCUSSED WITH FOREIGN OFFICIALS UNTIL AFTER THE CONGRESS HAD BEEN INFORMED. MR. ROSENTHAL THEN INDICATED THAT BECAUSE OF THIS THE NAVY DID NOT KNOW WHAT THEY WERE LIKELY TO ACQUIRE IN GREECE AND AS A MATTER OF FACT DID NOT GET ANY OF THE THREE PORTS THAT THEY DESIRED. MR. CHURCHILL RESPONDED THAT NAVY PLANNING, IN ADVANCE OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GREEKS WAS NECESSARILY TENTATIVE, BUT THAT THE SHIFT TO ELEFSIS AND MEGARA WAS NOT A SERIOUS PROBLEM. MR. ROSENTHAL ASKED WHETHER IT WAS DETRIMENTAL TO PLACE THE DESTROYER IN AN ENCLOSED HARBOR SUCH AS ELEFSIS. MR. CHURCHILL ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE WAS NOT A NAVAL EXPERT BUT HE DID UNDERSTAND THAT IT WAS NOT A SERIOUS PROBLEM AND THAT HE PERSONALLY COULD NOT CONCEIVE OF A SITUATION IN WHICH ANY ELEMENT WITHIN GREECE WOULD ATTEMPT TO BLOCKADE THE DESTROYERS. MR. ROSENTHAL ASKED IF GREECE COULD BE CONSIDERED STABLE. MR. CHURCHILL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RESPONDED THAT GREECE IS IN A PERIOD OF CHANGE WITH A GREAT DEAL OF POLITICAL ACTIVITY TAKING PLACE. MR. ROSENTHAL ASKED WHETHER THE DEVELOPING NATIONALISTIC ATTITUDE MENTIONED IN THE PREPARED STATEMENT POSED A PROBLEM FOR U.S. SAILORS IN ATHENS. MR. CHURCHILL RESPONDED THAT IT DID NOT AS ATHENS WAS RAPIDLY BECOMING A VERY LARGE MODERN COSMOPOLITAN CITY AND FOREIGNERS WERE LESS OBVIOUS THAN THEY HAD BEEN IN THE PAST.

6. MR. BUCHANAN BEGAN BY STATING THAT HE WAS PERSONALLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE PROCESS BY WHICH FOREIGN POLICY IS DEVELOPED AND THE DEGREE OF INFLUENCE THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE HAS IN THAT DEVELOPMENT. HE CITED THE FACT THAT ADMIRAL ZUMWALT HAD SAID THAT WITHOUT HOMEPORTING HE WOULD BE FORCED TO RECOMMEND THE REDUCTION OF THE SIXTH

FLEET BY ONE-HALF, TO A SINGLE CARRIER TASK GROUP, WHICH WOULD CAUSE MAJOR REDUCTIONS IN OUR NATO COMMITMENTS. MR. BUCHANAN CONCLUDED THAT THIS NAVAL DECISION WOULD IN EFFECT BE A MAJOR FOREIGN POLICY DECISION WHICH PERHAPS THE CONGRESS AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT WOULD BE UNABLE TO EFFECTIVELY EVALUATE BECAUSE THEY WERE NOT NAVAL EXPERTS. MR. CHURCHILL INDICATED THAT WHILE HE HIMSELF WAS A LAYMAN IN NAVAL MATTERS THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE DID HAVE PEOPLE ASSIGNED TO A NUMBER OF AREAS WHO WERE CAPABLE OF UNDERSTANDING PROBLEMS IN MILITARY TERMS AND EFFECTIVELY EVALUATING THE ALTERNATIVES. MR. BUCHANAN STATED THAT IT WAS VITAL FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE TO BE IN A POSITION TO MAKE INDEPENDENT JUDGMENTS ON MILITARY MATTERS. MR. CHURCHILL RELATED THIS EXCHANGE TO THE PHASE I HOMEPORTING DECISION BY INDICATING THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAD NOT BEEN STEAMROLLED INTO A DECISION BY DEFENSE BUT THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAD INDEPENDENTLY

STUDIED THE PLANS, SURVEYS, ALTERNATIVES, BENEFITS, AND COSTS OVER A PERIOD OF MORE THAN A YEAR BEFORE AN AFFIRMATIVE DECISION WAS REACHED.

7. MR. BUCHANAN CHARGED THAT HOMEPORTING GIVES THE APPEARANCE OF A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN U.S. MILITARY AND THE GOVERNMENT OF GREECE, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE FACT THAT A LARGE NUMBER OF MILITARY OFFICERS HOLD KEY POSITIONS WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT OF GREECE. MR. CHURCHILL STATED THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT DOES NOT SUPPORT A SPECIFIC GREEK REGIME. MR. BUCHANAN WONDERED WHETHER THE DEPARTMENT ATTACHES ANY IMPORTANCE TO THE PREAMBLE OF THE NATO CHARTER, CONCERNING SUPPORT FOR DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT BY ALL MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE, WHICH IS AT VARIANCE WITH THE ACTIVITIES OF THE PRESENT GREEK REGIME. MR. CHURCHILL STATED THAT WE DO CONSIDER THE NATO PREAMBLE IMPORTANT AND DO SUPPORT A RETURN TO PARLIAMENTARY GOVERNMENT IN GREECE. THE QUESTION IS ALWAYS WHAT WE CAN EFFECTIVELY DO, SINCE WE ADHERE TO A POLICY OF NON-INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF A FOREIGN GOVERNMENT. HE THEN QUOTED FROM SECRETARY ROGERS' SEOUL PRESS CONFERENCE OF JULY 20 TO THE EFFECT THAT PUBLIC CONDEMNATION OF AN EXISTING GOVERNMENT HAS PROVEN TO BE UNPRODUCTIVE AND THAT THE GREATEST SUCCESS IN MOVING A GOVERNMENT TOWARD THE PRINCIPLES OF DEMOCRACY HAS BEEN ACHIEVED IN PRIVATE LOW-KEY COOPERATIVE GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT EFFORTS.

8. SPEAKING OF THE PLEBISCITE, MR. HAMILTON ASKED AGAIN

HOW MANY PEOPLE HAD VOTED, HOW MANY WERE ELIGIBLE, AND HOW MANY HAD VOTED IN FAVOR. HE THEN ASKED WHAT A YES VOTE MEANT AND MR. CHURCHILL EXPLAINED THAT IT INDICATED ACCEPTANCE OF SOME 34 CHANGES IN THE 1968 CONSTITUTION INCLUDING ONE WHICH WOULD KEEP PREMIER PAPADOPOULOS IN POWER UNTIL 1981. MR. HAMILTON ASKED WHETHER THE REGIME HAD MONOPOLIZED THE NEWS MEDIA DURING THE CAMPAIGN. MR. CHURCHILL SAID HE WOULD NOT USE THE WORD MONOPOLY BUT AGREED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD GREATER ACCESS TO THE MEDIA DURING THE CAMPAIGN THAN DID THE OPPOSITION. MR. HAMILTON ASKED HOW MANY NEWSPAPERS WERE WILLING TO PRINT OPPOSITION STATEMENTS, AND WHAT KIND OF COVERAGE THESE PAPERS GAVE THE OPPOSITION. MR. CHURCHILL RESPONDED THAT THREE OF THE NEWSPAPERS HAVING MAJOR CIRCULATION WITHIN GREECE PRINTED THE OPPOSITION STATEMENTS, AND THESE DID PROVIDE RELATIVELY GOOD COVERAGE OF THE OPPOSITION POSITION. MR. HAMILTON ASKED WHETHER THERE WAS FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AND IF NOT, HOW IT WAS

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CONTROLLED. MR. CHURCHILL ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE PRESS IN GREECE DID NOT ENJOY THE SAME FREEDOM THAT THE AMERICAN PRESS ENJOYS, BEING CONTROLLED BY A PRESS LAW WHICH HAS BEEN IN EFFECT FOR ABOUT A YEAR AND WHICH IMPOSES CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR VARIOUS INFRACTIONS. MR. HAMILTON ASKED WHETHER THE OPPOSITION WAS ABLE TO USE RADIO, TELEVISION, OR BILLBOARD ADVERTISING TO GET THEIR MESSAGE TO THE PUBLIC. MR. CHURCHILL STATED THAT THE OPPOSITION DID NOT HAVE ACCESS TO THESE METHODS.

9. MR. HAMILTON ASKED IF THERE WAS ANY EVIDENCE OF INTIMIDATION OR HARASSMENT IN THE CONDUCT OF THE PLEBISCITE. MR. CHURCHILL RESPONDED THAT THE EMBASSY HAD NOT REPORTED SPECIFIC INSTANCES OF INTIMIDATION OR HARASSMENT. MR. HAMILTON ASKED WHAT THE MOOD OF THE GREEK PEOPLE WAS AS THEY WENT TO THE POLLS. MR. CHURCHILL INDICATED THAT A RESPONSE WOULD CALL FOR A VALUE JUDGMENT WHICH WOULD NOT BE PROPER FOR HIM TO MAKE PUBLICLY. MR. HAMILTON INDICATED DISPLEASURE AND MR. CHURCHILL INDICATED HE WOULD BE PLEASED TO PROVIDE SUCH AN EVALUATION PRIVATELY TO MR. HAMILTON IF HE SO DESIRED. MR. HAMILTON ASKED WHETHER AMBASSADOR TASCA HAD SIGNIFICANTLY ALTERED HIS POSITION CONCERNING THE REGIME IN RECENT MONTHS. MR. CHURCHILL REPLIED THAT THOSE WHO CLAIMED TO SEE A SHIFT IN AMBASSADOR TASCA'S POSITION, HAD NOT UNDERSTOOD THE NATURE OF HIS EFFORTS SINCE HIS ASSIGNMENT TO ATHENS IN 1970; HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN URGING A RETURN TO REPRESENTA-

TIVE GOVERNMENT, AND THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN THIS REGARD. MR. HAMILTON ASKED WHETHER AMBASSADOR TASCA CALLED ON MR. PAPADOPOULOS IN RECENT WEEKS TO CONVEY A CONCERN OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ABOUT THE UPCOMING PLEBISCITE AND DOMESTIC POLITICAL TRENDS IN GREECE. MR. CHURCHILL REPLIED THAT MR. TASCA HAD CALLED UPON MR. PAPADOPOULOS, ON INSTRUCTIONS, AND THAT THIS DISCUSSION WAS IN LINE WITH THE ESTABLISHED U.S. GOVERNMENT POLICY WITH REGARD TO GREECE. MR. HAMILTON ASKED WHETHER THE PLEBSCITE PROPERLY REFLECTS THE FEELINGS OF THE PEOPLE AND WHETHER IT IS LIKELY THAT ANY VOTERS WHO OPPOSED THE REGIME CAST AFFIRMATIVE VOTES. MR. CHURCHILL SAID THAT HE SUPPOSED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SOME PEOPLE WHO VOTED YES ON THE OVERALL 34 ISSUES AT STAKE IN THE PLEBISCITE, MIGHT VOTE AGAINST THE PRESENT LEADERSHIP IN SUBSEQUENT ELECTIONS.

10. MR. HAMILTON ASKED WHETHER, IN THE JUDGMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, GREECE UNDER MR. PAPADOPOULOS INTENDS TO AND IS ABLE TO MOVE TOWARDS DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT. MR. CHURCHILL RESPONDED THAT HE PERSONALLY BELIEVED MR. PAPADOPOULOS INTENDS TO CARRY OUT HIS

PLEDGE TO HOLD GENERAL ELECTIONS. HOWEVER, IT MUST BE UNDERSTOOD THAT THERE ARE MANY UNCERTAINTIES.

11. MR. HAMILTON ASKED WHERE WITHIN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH PHASE II OF HOMEPORING WAS CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW. MR. CHURCHILL RESPONDED THAT THE PRIMARY REVIEW IS NOW BEING CONDUCTED IN DEFENSE AS TECHNICAL PROBLEMS CONTINUE TO BE WORKED OUT AND THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE IS BEING KEPT ABREAST OF DEVELOPMENTS AS THEY OCCUR. MR. HAMILTON ASKED FOR AND WAS PROVIDED DETAILS AS TO WHICH ELEMENTS WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT AND DOD WERE MOST DIRECTLY INVOLVED WITH REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF HOMEPORING PROPOSALS.

12. MR. HAMILTON ASKED WHETHER THE CARRIER WOULD BE HOMEPORING NEXT SPRING. MR. CHURCHILL SAID THAT NAVY HAD PLANNED TO IMPLEMENT PHASE II IN THE SPRING, BUT HE NOW BELIEVED THIS DATE WOULD SLIP. MR. HAMILTON ASKED WHETHER A DECISION ON TIMING WOULD DEPEND UPON POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN GREECE. MR. CHURCHILL SAID THAT THE MAIN FACTOR WAS RESOLUTION OF THE TECHNICAL PROBLEMS BUT THAT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS COULD ALSO AFFECT THE TIMING. MR. HAMILTON ASKED FOR A HYPOTHETICAL EXAMPLE OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS WHICH MIGHT DELAY OR PREVENT HOMEPORING OF THE CARRIER. MR. CHURCHILL SAID THAT AS A PURELY HYPOTHETICAL CASE, WIDESPREAD INTERNAL DISORDERS WOULD

PROBABLY HAVE THE EFFECT, BUT ADDED THAT HE DID NOT FORESEE SUCH AN OCCURENCE. MR. HAMILTON ASKED WHETHER THE PRESENCE OF A DICTATORSHIP IN GREECE WOULD DELAY OR PREVENT ADDITIONAL HOMEPORTING. MR. CHURCHILL INDICATED THAT SUCH A SITUATION WOULD HAVE TO BE REVIEWED IN LIGHT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF THE PREVAILING CIRCUMSTANCES, AT THE TIME THE DECISION WAS MADE.

13. MR. ROSENTHAL ASKED WHETHER THE AVERAGE GREEK CITIZEN WAS AWARE OF HOMEPORTING. MR. CHURCHILL RESPONDED THAT HOMEPORTING IS NOT VERY VISIBLE. MR. ROSENTHAL INDICATED THAT SOME TIME AGO THERE HAD BEEN CONSIDERABLE PRESS COVERAGE, AND HE FELT IT WAS LIKELY THE AVERAGE GREEK CITIZEN MIGHT WELL INFER THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF GREECE AND THE U-S. WERE GROWING MUCH CLOSER TOGETHER AS A RESULT OF HOMEPORTING. MR. CHURCHILL ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THIS MIGHT BE THE CASE, BUT SAID THERE WERE INDICATIONS THAT THE GREEK PEOPLE WERE BECOMING MORE AWARE THAT WE DO NOT SUPPORT ANY PARTICULAR REGIME, AND IN FACT THE GREEK GOVERNMENT ITSELF HAS INDICATED PUBLICLY THAT IT DOES NOT DEPEND ON OUR SUPPORT.

14. MR. ROSENTHAL ASKED MR. CHURCHILL TO DESCRIBE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GREECE UNDER THE PRESENT REGIME AND RUSSIA UNDER A COMMUNIST DICTATORSHIP. MR. CHURCHILL INDICATED THAT THERE WAS AN OVERWHELMING DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO, STARTING WITH THE BASIC CULTURE ORIENTATION, OUTLOOK, AND INSTITUTIONS OF GREECE, COMPARED WITH THOSE OF RUSSIA.

15. MR. BUCHANAN ASKED WHETHER THE PREPARED STATEMENT THAT MR. CHURCHILL READ WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE TO THE GREEK GOVERNMENT, THE GREEK PRESS, AND THUS THE GREEK PEOPLE. MR. CHURCHILL ACKNOWLEDGED THAT WHEN THE COMMITTEE RELEASES THE HEARING REPORT THE STATEMENT BECOMES A PUBLIC DOCUMENT AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT DOES PROVIDE IT TO BOTH THE GREEK GOVERNMENT AND THE NEWS MEDIA. MR. BUCHANAN THEN WONDERED WHY THE STATEMENT DID NOT CONTAIN MENTION OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S INTERESTS IN SEEING GREECE RETURN TO A REPRESENTATIVE FORM OF GOVERNMENT AND HE ASKED HOW OFTEN IN THE PAST WE HAD SPECIFICALLY MADE THAT STATEMENT IN A PUBLIC FORM. MR. CHURCHILL RESPONDED THAT HE WOULD PROVIDE FOR THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RECORD THE OCCASIONS ON WHICH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAD MADE SUCH STATEMENTS PUBLICLY, BUT THERE WAS NO DOUBT THAT WE WERE CLEARLY ON RECORD IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN AS BEING ACTIVELY INTERESTED IN SEEING GREECE MOVE RAPIDLY TOWARD DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT.

16. MR. BUCHANAN AGAIN SAID THAT ELEFSIS IS AN ENCLOSED HARBOR AND POSED A HYPOTHETICAL SITUATION IN WHICH THE CHANNELS WERE BLOCKED AND OUR DESTROYERS EFFECTIVELY LOCKED INSIDE THE HARBOR AND THEN ASKED WHAT ELEMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT WOULD MAKE A DECISION AS TO THE APPROPRIATE COURSE OF ACTION. MR. CHURCHILL RESPONDED THAT SUCH A SITUATION WOULD REPRESENT A CRISIS OF SUCH MAGNITUDE THAT DECISIONS WOULD NOT BE MADE BY ANY SINGLE DEPARTMENT OR MILITARY SERVICE. MR. BUCHANAN THEN MADE A LENGTHY STATEMENT TO UNDERSCORE THE IMPORTANCE OF CIVILIAN CONTROL OF THE NAVY AND THE NEED TO INSURE THAT THE NAVY DOES NOT MAKE FOREIGN POLICY.

17. IN A BRIEF SERIES OF QUESTIONS, MR. ROSENTHAL DETERMINED THAT FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER ABEROFF IS NOW IN JAIL, HAS BEEN IN JAIL SINCE EARLY JULY, WITH THE ANNOUNCED REASON BEING HIS ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT IN THE RECENT NAVY MUTINY, AND IS BEING HELD WITHOUT BAIL. MR. ROSENTHAL STATED HIS OPINION THAT THIS SITUATION IS SIGNIFICANTLY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT ONE WOULD EXPECT IN THE U.S. OR IN ANY OTHER DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT.

18. MR. ROSENTHAL QUOTED MR. DAVIES' TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE LAST YEAR WHICH INDICATED THERE IS LITTLE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE HOMEPORTING ARRANGEMENTS AND U.S. DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE THE REGIME TO MOVE TOWARDS A REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT. MR. ROSENTHAL ASKED WHETHER OR NOT HOMEPORTING OF THE CARRIER WOULD OCCUR IF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE DECIDED IT WAS POLITICALLY UNDESIRABLE TO PROCEED. MR. CHURCHILL STATED THAT THE DEPARTMENT DID OF COURSE HAVE THE POWER TO MAKE THIS DECISION.

19. MR. ROSENTHAL ASKED WHAT TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES WERE

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DELAYING IMPLEMENTATION. MR. CHURCHILL DEFERRED TO DEFENSE FOR A DETAILED RESPONSE BUT SAID THAT GENERALLY THE PROBLEMS INVOLVED PROVISION OF AIRFIELD FACILITIES

TO ACCOMMODATE THE AIR WING AND DEPENDENT SUPPORT FACILITIES
WHICH NEED TO BE OPERATIONAL BEFORE THE FAMILIES
ARRIVE.

20. MR. ROSENTHAL ASKED WHETHER MR. CHURCHILL WAS
FAMILIAR WITH THE GAO REPORT AND WHETHER HE AGREED WITH
ITS FINDINGS. MR. CHURCHILL REPORTED THAT THE DEPARTMENT
OF STATE HAD NOT RECEIVED THE FINAL REPORT, BUT WE
HAD REVIEWED THE GAO STATEMENT MADE TO THE COMMITTEE.
MR. CHURCHILL STATED HIS OPINION THAT MANY OF THE PROBLEMS
STATED IN THE GAO REPORT WERE THOSE THE DEPARTMENT OF
STATE HAD BEEN AWARE OF. HOWEVER, HE WENT ON TO STATE
THAT HE FELT A NUMBER OF THE PROBLEMS IDENTIFIED IN THE
GAO REPORT HAD BEEN OVERSTATED AS TO MAGNITUDE.

COMMENT: ALTHOUGH MR. ROSENTHAL AND MR. HAMILTON WERE
INDIGNANT AT THE WITNESSES' REFUSAL TO BE DRAWN OUT ON
INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS IN GREECE, THE GENERAL ATMOSPHERE
WAS SOMEWHAT LESS HOSTILE THAN PREVIOUS SESSIONS,
POSSIBLY REFLECTING THE THIN ATTENDANCE AND THE REPETITIVE
NATURE OF THE MATERIAL. ROGERS

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